

Telling Canadian Research Data Management (RDM) Stories in the Health Sciences

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FACTORS DRIVING RESEARCH STUDY

- Major Canadian funding bodies, CIHR, NSERC, and SSHRC, have adopted the Statement of Principles on Digital Data Management and are working towards requirements for data management plans, preservation, and sharing.

Universities will be required to provide training and services to support researchers in meeting these requirements.

- Awareness of practices and current needs across disciplines to better enable libraries to support research data management (RDM).
- National collaboration between Canadian universities to help meet these needs.

CORE QUESTIONS

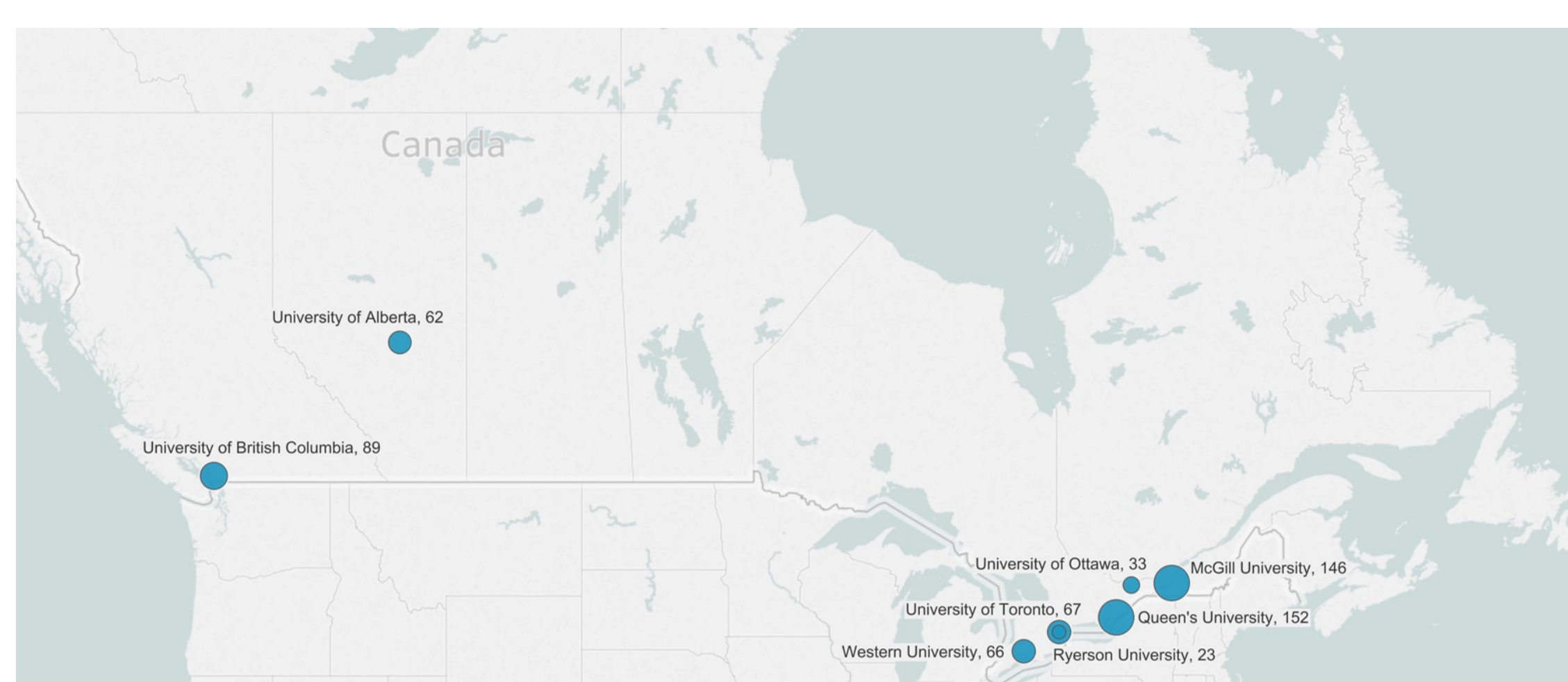
- How do researchers manage and share their data?
- What services are needed?
- Are there differences in how researchers from different disciplines manage their data?

SURVEY METHODS

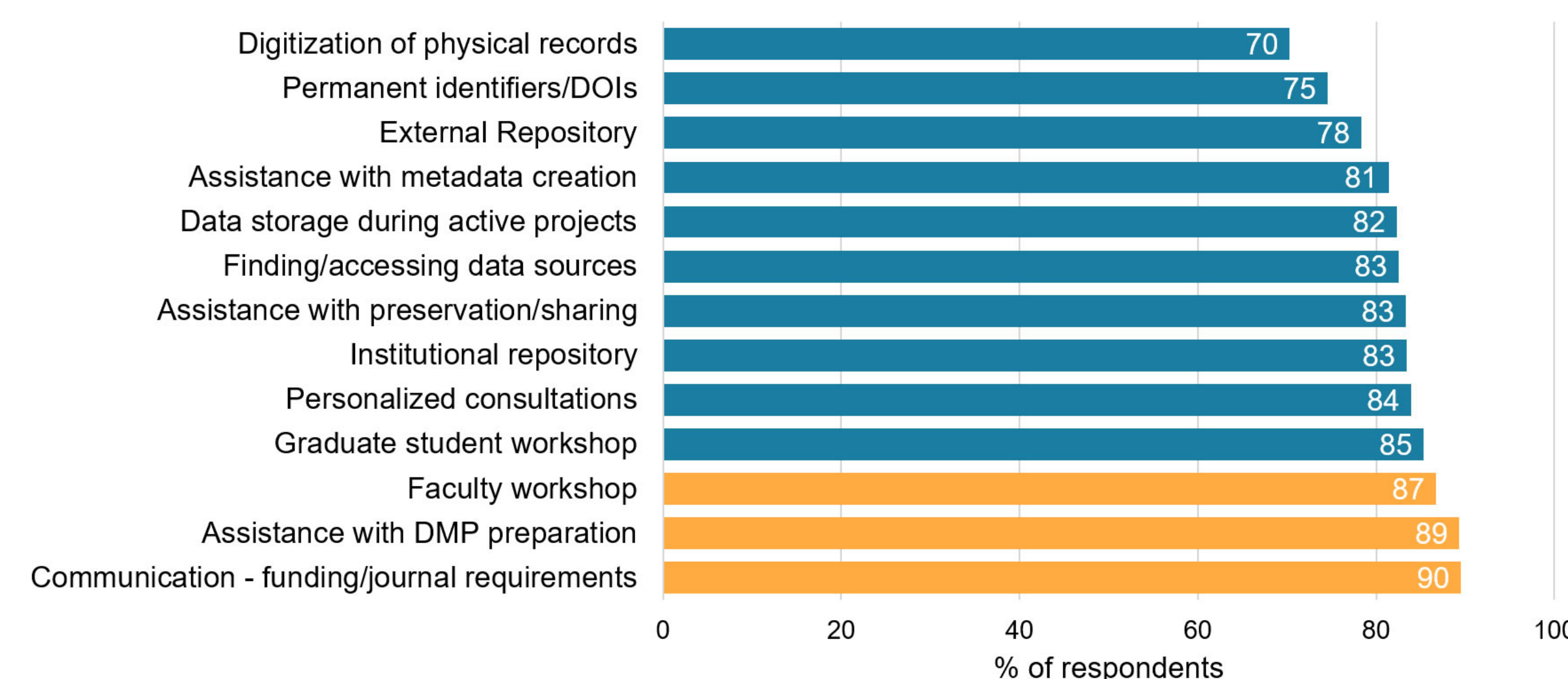
Between 2015-2018, researchers at 14 Canadian universities used a common survey instrument to gather information about the RDM practices and attitudes of health sciences students, faculty, and staff, in engineering and science, humanities and social sciences, and most recently, in health and medical sciences.

This poster shares the combined preliminary data from 8 institutions which completed the health science survey in 2017, resulting in a convenience sample of 638 researchers.

INSTITUTIONS INCLUDED IN STUDY



INTEREST IN SERVICES



OBSERVATIONS

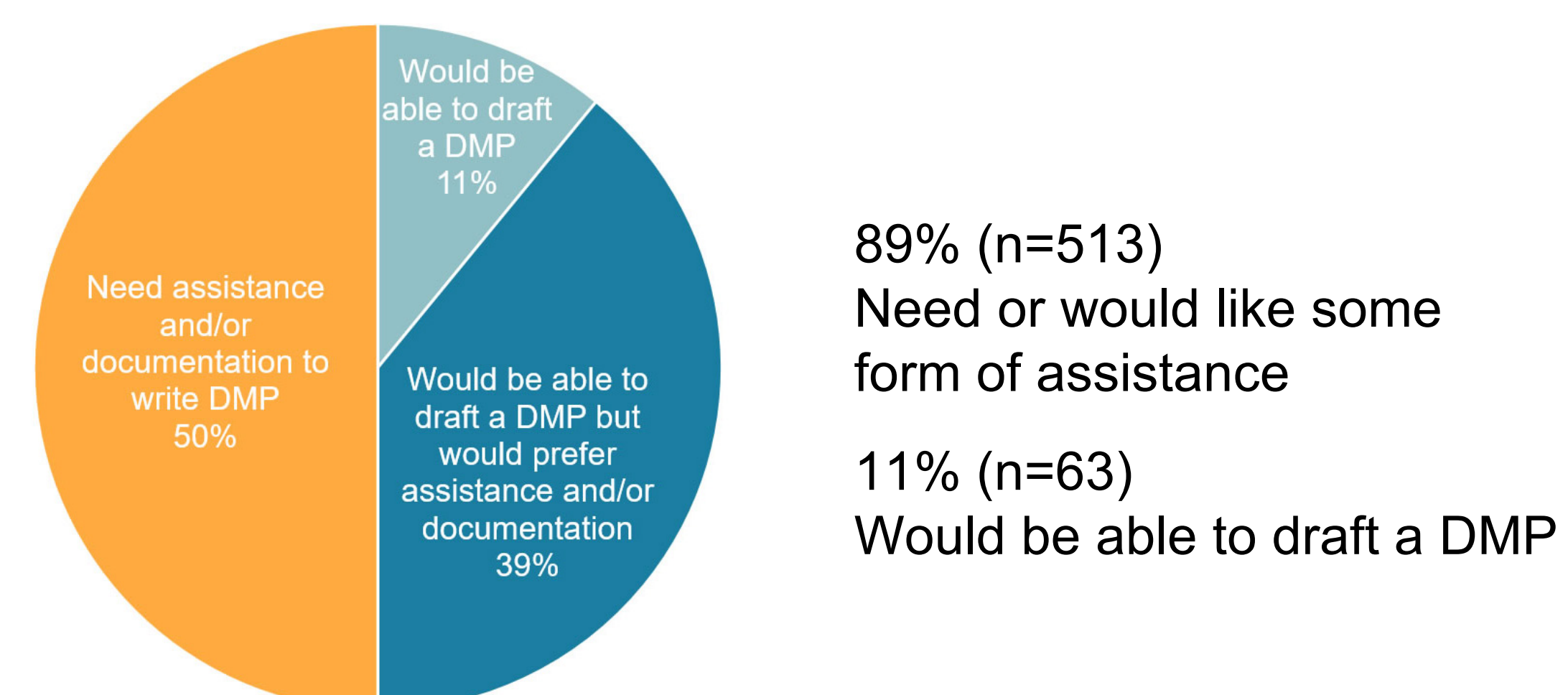
Respondents were highly interested in services, particularly in communication on funding and journal requirements, data management plans, and workshops for faculty and graduate students.

Of the 20% of respondents who were graduate students, 90% were very interested in library services such as:

- RDM workshops
- Information about funding and journal RDM requirements
- Assistance with data management plans (DMPs)
- Data storage during active projects

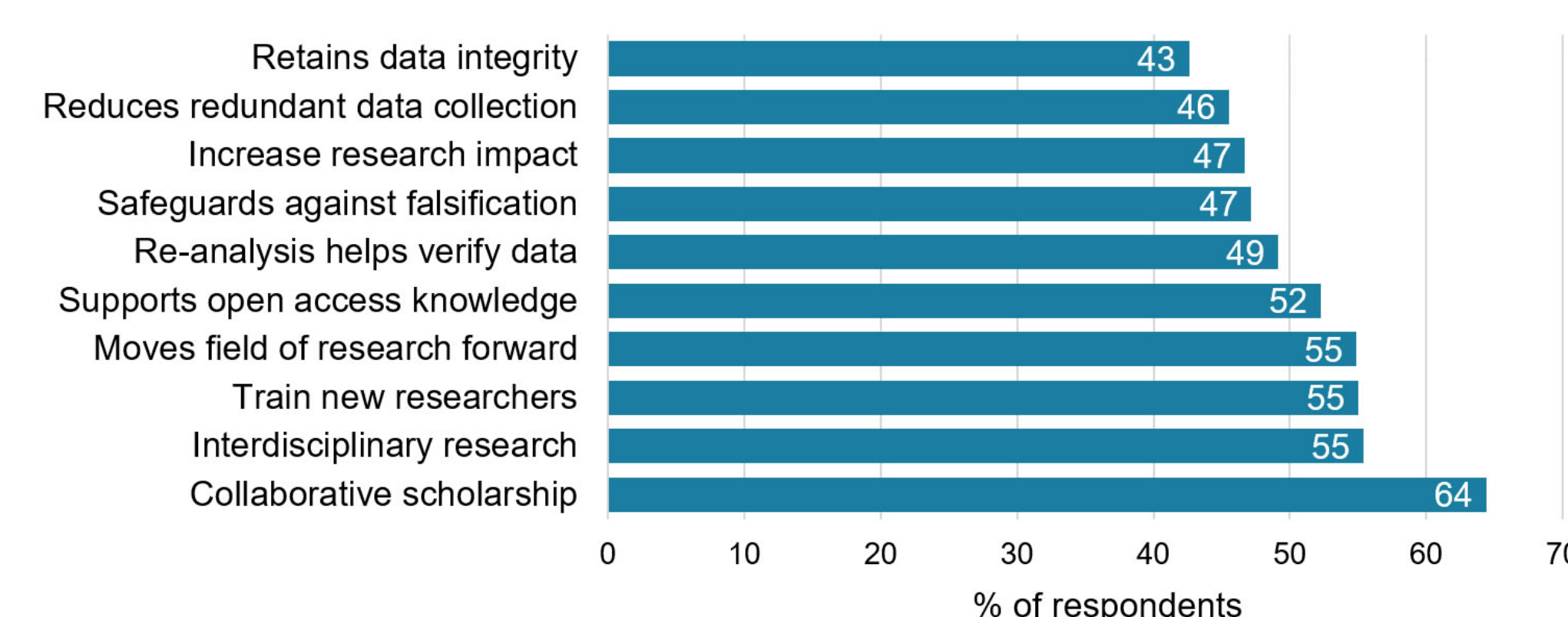
DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN SUPPORT

Respondents of all ranks reported similar DMP needs across disciplines. Over 89% of health sciences researchers would like support with creating their DMP.

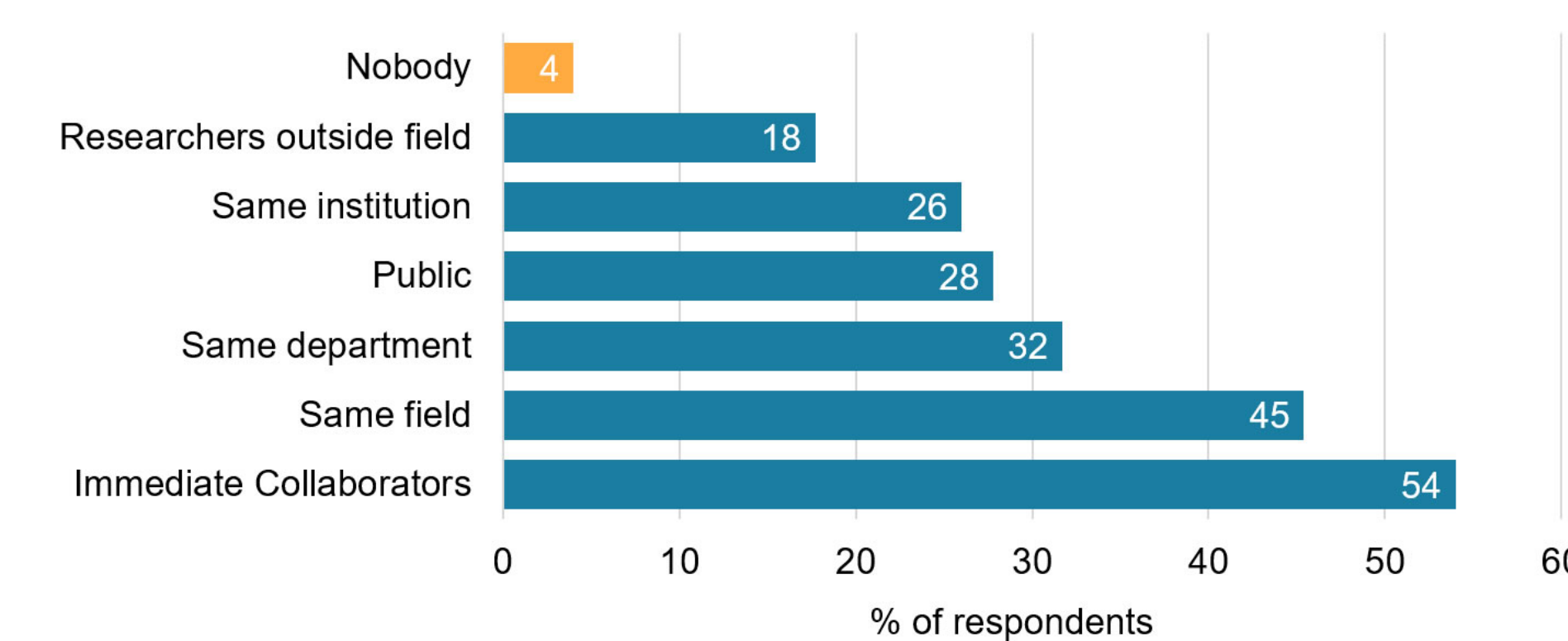


INTEREST IN SHARING

Perceived benefits of sharing

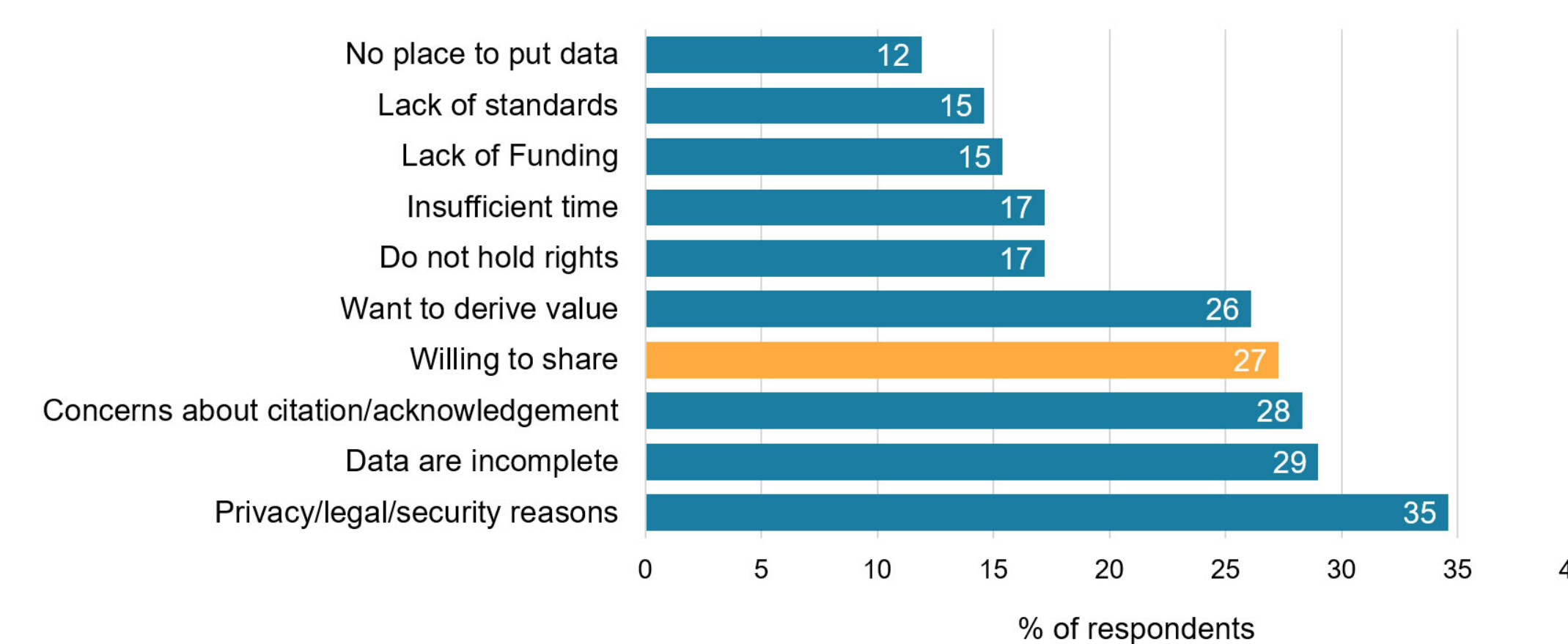


Most respondents were interested in sharing their data. Only 4% were not interested in sharing.



BARRIERS TO SHARING

Privacy, legal, and security concerns factor heavily in reasons why researchers are unwilling to share their data.



IMPLICATIONS FOR RDM SERVICES

- Raise awareness of best practices for data sharing, and offer information and workshops that speak to concerns and challenges.
- Promote institutional repositories for data storage and support researchers in using external repositories.
- High interest in services; therefore market DMP Assistant, one-on-one support, and workshops.
- Health science researchers were most interested in library services and may be most receptive to initial marketing of new workshops and tools.

LISTENING TO RESEARCHERS' STORIES

"Please, please, please make direct cloud storage available to PIs. And I mean REALLY available not just 'technically you can do it' but in reality nobody wants to help."

"This is a very important topic that I feel that we have been lagging behind - especially in the life sciences when we are not used to or trained to manage data very well. I think this is a critical piece as we move (slowly) towards reproducible research and less artisanal excel work."

"I'm willing to be transparent but because I conduct research with human subjects who are in an age range considered vulnerable, parents deserve to be informed of how the data will be used and by whom."

"...many researcher's datasets become fragmented as people try to get open-source or other cheap software that may not be 'standard' or 'best practice' in their fields. This is another reason that datasets can be non-shareable even within fields because you can't share across platforms."

FURTHER INFORMATION

Canadian RDM Survey Consortium reports and data may be found on the Portage site: bit.ly/2KbH1y3

